

VIETNAM COURIER

April 7
1969
No. 211
6th Year

Information Weekly — P.O. Box 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

IN THIS ISSUE

DRVN Health Service Face to War Tasks

by Dr. PHAM NGOC THACH

(page 3)



Quang Nam province
PLAF men in action

ON SAIGON FRONT

PLAF HOLD THE INITIATIVE IN SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS

"New Thinking" in Saigon or a New Bluff

AMBASSADOR E. BUNKER met Nguyen Van Thieu five times before going to Washington. After conferring with his envoy, U.S. President Nixon declared that "private talks" would be the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. Almost at the same moment, in Saigon Nguyen Van Thieu stated that his administration was ready to enter into "private talks" with the South Viet Nam NFL. The Thieu statement received a warm welcome from the State Department's spokesman.

So, the whole show was carefully prepared and went off smoothly.

But, those who have been concerned over the developments in the Paris Conference are wondering what will be the subject of "private talks" and

what will be their results? Some people may think there is something new on the American side which would end the present deadlock of the Paris negotiations. Some others may consider that Mr. Nixon has succeeded in gaining time at a moment when he is not in a position to define clearly a concrete policy regarding Viet Nam. Mistrust in the good faith of both Thieu and Nixon is prevalent. And not without reason.

WHEN negotiations are agreed upon between parties concerned the form of negotiations is important, but not to the extent of becoming a decisive factor of their success. How could "private talks" suggested by Nguyen Van Thieu be more productive than the present

open parity, if Washington persists in its aggressive policy in South Viet Nam?

Mr. Nixon affirmed that his administration was resolved to secure an honorable peace in Viet Nam. So did Mr. Rogers before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on March 27. However, it is obvious to everyone that the White House's Viet Nam policy remains ambiguous.

On the other hand, what is left in no doubt is a set of facts which are aggravating the situation in South Viet Nam, mention should be made of the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique in spite of the insistence of large sections of the urban people on their removal at the earliest date: bombings.

(Continued page 2)

**OPERATION ATLAS WEDGE AT
DAU TIENG: 2,000 GIs Put Out of
Action, 210 Vehicles, 30 Cannons, 12 Chop-
pers Destroyed.**

**TAY NINH REGION: 700 Enemy
Casualties in 11 Days.**

**XUAN LOC SECTOR: 8 Puppet
Companies Wiped Out.**

**4,200 Enemy Soldiers Knocked Out South
and South-East of DA NANG and in the
Western HIGH PLATEAUX in Two Weeks.**

North Viet Nam

Two U.S. pilotless planes downed over Haiphong
on March 31 and April 3, 1969.

Total loss of U.S. aircraft since August 5, 1964:

3,275

Since Nixon's coming to power

U.S. Stepped-Up Infringement on Sovereignty and Threats to Security of DRVN

In the first half of November 1969 the number of sorties of American planes violating the sovereignty and threatening security of the DRVN rose to 100. Since Nixon's coming to power, this figure rose to 100 for the last ten days of January 1969 and to 100 for the period from February up to the end of March.

Particularly serious were the air strikes and shelling of Americans based south of the DMZ, or from the 7th Fleet operating in the Tonkin Gulf.

In March alone, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the DRVN seven times denounced crimes perpetrated by the U.S. against the DRVN. Three days after Nixon's inauguration from January 23 to 26, B-52s dropped 700 tons of bombs on Quang Binh province. According to still incomplete figures released by the Committee

of Investigation of the U.S. imperialism, the districts of that province were the targets of 6 air raids in March alone: districts of Ho Trach and Minh Hoa on March 1, Le Thuy on March 9, Bo Trach again on March 19, 18 and 19, Minh Hoa again on March 20. It was the same for Vinh Linh area: in the first half of March that area was 6 times subjected to air and naval bombardments (March 1, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 13). Son Kien village, Huong Son district, Ha Tinh province, over 20 km north of the 17th parallel was raided on March 10.

These acts of war show that Nixon persists in Johnson's criminal adventure and is stepping up the infringement upon the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN. He must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

U.S. - PUPPET CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Over 400 Civilians Thrown into the Sea

According to the April 2, 1969 statement of the South Viet Nam NLF Permanent Representative to the North, between January 13 and February 3, 1969, over 400 GIs, puppet and satellite troops, commanded by General Cankey, raided Ha Lung An area, composed of the villages of Binh Chau, Binh Phu, Binh Tan, Son

My, Son Hai, Son Quang, in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts, Quang Ngai province. Aircraft, armoured cars, boats (including phosphorus bombs) and tanks were everything: dwelling houses, property, fruit trees, rice fields and gardens, more than 1,000 people most of them old-age, women, and

children, were herded into the Van Thanh concentration camp, Thuan An Mount, north of Quang Ngai provincial capital.

Infringed by such savagery the camp inmates rose against the Yankees and their agents and forced them to move 4,000 people to other camps in Feb. 1969.

Before dispersing the Van Thanh concentration camp, the Yankees and their quislings had forcefully shipped 400 civilians to Can Khanh, allegedly to "settle" them there. Most of these 400 people who were members of families of former resistance members or families suspected of having connections with revolutionaries, were thrown into the sea. Nearly all of the victims' corpses were washed back to the waves onto the shore. When they learned of this heinous crime, the Quang Ngai inhabitants raised a number of puppet troops indignantly denounced and condemned the Yankees and their agents who, embarrassed and panic-stricken, tried to exculpate themselves with a "shipwreck" tale.

Questioning of a "Viet Cong" suspect. There is always an American

350 People Killed in a Bombardment

Gia Phone Press Agency reported a heavy bombardment on February 10, 1969, of U.S. planes and artillery of Cong Ho Binh, 22 km north of Kontum Town and along

the progress of Paris conference. They pointed out that the war was brought to the Americans. "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, in but a word, is the policy of putting an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression. The White House want to make people believe that "private talks" are the only way to help the Conference progress but the decisive factor is whether the Nixon Administration will accept a solution puppet army can never be put back on its feet.

The American rulers, they stressed, claimed that they are not escalating the war, but their deeds, some of which were denounced by many U.S. Congressmen, testify to the contrary: intensification of bombing raids and repression against the urban people in South Viet Nam, operations conducted by U.S. troops against Laos, increasing violations of Cambodia's territory, boosting of Saigon pup-

pet army's strength and greater supply of equipment to it. The Americans "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, in but a word, is the policy of putting an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression. The White House want to make people believe that "private talks" are the only way to help the Conference progress but the decisive factor is whether the Nixon Administration will accept a solution puppet army can never be put back on its feet.

The DRVN and NLF envoys strongly denounced the manoeuvre behind the American rulers' statements about "private talks" and the so-

"New Thinking"

Viet Nam, DRVN sovereignty is endangered upon the peace talks. The notice of the White House was transparent when it pointed out that the administration the so-called "private talks with the NLF" is the NLF accepts such talks, that will imply a priceless recognition of this administration which represents the U.S. proposal is rejected, the Thien Ky-Huong clique will demand loudly that it is armed with the best will whereas the NLF is blocking the progress of the Paris Conference.

What is wrong with all these subtle calculations of the State Department is the fact that the Americans are not taking into account the U.S. words and deeds. The Americans insist that they respect Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty, but they refuse to put an end to a war which violates its independence and sovereignty, and persist in asking for terms in exchange for an withdrawal of their troops. They claim that they respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination but they keep on supporting a puppet government in their back and call and ignoring the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs, in accordance with the Political Program of the NLF, their genuine representative. Already it is rumored in Saigon that Nguyen Van Thieu will maintain the five years' hand of the puppet regime, passed on to the puppet President Truong Dinh Thieu, his rival in the 1967 "presidential elections", under the only charge of having advocated "peace talks" with the NLF, just as he himself is doing at present.

What Nguyen Van Thieu put forth as an initiative of his is actually only a maneuver of the White House. The so-called "new thinking" in Saigon - as certain propagandists termed it - is a sheer bluff. It is only natural that the "private talks" proposed by the U.S. puppet regime have been rejected by the NLF and push-forward by progressive opinion.

WASHINGTON was perfectly aware that its suggestion of "private talks between Saigon and the NLF" held no water. It nevertheless put it forward for avoidable and unavoidable purposes. Mr. Nixon has been in the White House for more than two months, but he is still unable to give an explicit and clear answer to such questions as "Is he continuing or stopping the war against the Vietnamese?" "Would he would he do it?" That is the reason why world and American opinion has been impatient with the dubious and dangerous attitude of the new U.S. president. The offer of "private talks" between the Saigon puppet administration and the NLF, though important in practice, would create the impression that Mr. Nixon also intended the Paris negotiations to make headway.

The Saigon administration with its Thien-Ky-Huong clique is loathed by the people and loathed upon with contempt by the whole world because it proves more and more to be an instrument for U.S. imperialism and a gang of traitors to the

called progress of Paris conference. They pointed out that the war was brought to the Americans. "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, in but a word, is the policy of putting an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression. The White House want to make people believe that "private talks" are the only way to help the Conference progress but the decisive factor is whether the Nixon Administration will accept a solution puppet army can never be put back on its feet.

(Continued page 7)

"New Thinking"

Viet Nam, DRVN sovereignty is endangered upon the peace talks. The notice of the White House was transparent when it pointed out that the administration the so-called "private talks with the NLF" is the NLF accepts such talks, that will imply a priceless recognition of this administration which represents the U.S. proposal is rejected, the Thien Ky-Huong clique will demand loudly that it is armed with the best will whereas the NLF is blocking the progress of the Paris Conference.

What is wrong with all these subtle calculations of the State Department is the fact that the Americans are not taking into account the U.S. words and deeds. The Americans insist that they respect Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty, but they refuse to put an end to a war which violates its independence and sovereignty, and persist in asking for terms in exchange for an withdrawal of their troops. They claim that they respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination but they keep on supporting a puppet government in their back and call and ignoring the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs, in accordance with the Political Program of the NLF, their genuine representative. Already it is rumored in Saigon that Nguyen Van Thieu will maintain the five years' hand of the puppet regime, passed on to the puppet President Truong Dinh Thieu, his rival in the 1967 "presidential elections", under the only charge of having advocated "peace talks" with the NLF, just as he himself is doing at present.

What Nguyen Van Thieu put forth as an initiative of his is actually only a maneuver of the White House. The so-called "new thinking" in Saigon - as certain propagandists termed it - is a sheer bluff. It is only natural that the "private talks" proposed by the U.S. puppet regime have been rejected by the NLF and push-forward by progressive opinion.

WASHINGTON was perfectly aware that its suggestion of "private talks between Saigon and the NLF" held no water. It nevertheless put it forward for avoidable and unavoidable purposes. Mr. Nixon has been in the White House for more than two months, but he is still unable to give an explicit and clear answer to such questions as "Is he continuing or stopping the war against the Vietnamese?" "Would he would he do it?" That is the reason why world and American opinion has been impatient with the dubious and dangerous attitude of the new U.S. president. The offer of "private talks" between the Saigon puppet administration and the NLF, though important in practice, would create the impression that Mr. Nixon also intended the Paris negotiations to make headway.

The Saigon administration with its Thien-Ky-Huong clique is loathed by the people and loathed upon with contempt by the whole world because it proves more and more to be an instrument for U.S. imperialism and a gang of traitors to the

QUANG LOI

VIET NAM COURIER

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

Known as Great Rear Base of the South Face to War Tasks

Dr. Pham Ngoc Thach, DRVN late Health Minister, deputy to the National Assembly, Hero of Labour, died on November 7, 1968 while conducting scientific researches on the battlefield. Following are excerpts from a report he wrote before going up the line. (Ed.)

FROM the situation in the North during the past three years heavy but glorious tasks have arisen for the Health Service: to give attention to the wounded, victims of U.S. bombings; to deal with U.S.-schemed chemical and bacteriological warfare; and as a routine to prevent epidemics and to look after the health of our cadres and people.

During over ten years' peaceful construction, under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a relatively widespread medical network has been set up in the North from town to country, from deltas to mountains. At the beginning of the resistance against the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction, the Health Service realized that its primary task was to build a widespread and efficient regional medical network along the line: "Village to provide first aid; district to act as village's welfare and for fighting trachoma, malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy at district level, and through hygiene preventive inoculation drives in villages. It thanks to the work of the basic health service for the welfare of mothers and children that the rate of childbirth and infant mortality in the North is very low.

In the whole organizational work of the branch, the development and strengthening of basic medical units up to our efforts to foil the U.S. war of destruction has been the most important and urgent task. To the end of 1967, 80 per cent of co-operatives, 100 per cent of villages in the delta, and 100 per cent of villages in the highland were provided with a medical station; almost all these establishments were in a position to deal with cases of shock, haemorrhage, fracture, a number of them could perform minor surgical operations on lying-in mothers and ordinary surgery; 90 per cent of the wounded having received hospital care in a sufficiently satisfactory state to undergo surgical operations or to get further medical attention. Quang Binh province, worst hit by enemy bombardments, imaginatively built a village first-aid station network with medical officials posted into one capable of efficiently handling cases of urgency imposed by the state of war, of successfully combining prophylactic hygiene with curative hygiene, medicine with pharmacy, and Eastern medicine with Western medicine. In the network, in 1967, 95 per cent of patients and 80 per cent of urgencies in the province received prompt attention. Patients from higher level hospitals were treated in village medical centres.

This widespread rural network makes it easier for the Health Service to tackle more difficult tasks. At the end of 1967, over 80 per cent of district hospitals in the North were able to carry out surgical operations and produce glucose or salted serum used in surgery or for urgencies. While at the beginning of 1965 only about 30 hospitals in towns and cities could attend to complicated surgical operations, after three years of anti-U.S. assistance, more than 300

hospitals, including most of district hospitals, have been able to do so despite war conditions. A number of district hospitals, especially those in Quang Binh, a war-torn land, have been able to do complicated surgical operations on the skull, liver, spleen, lungs, arteries, etc. In the past three years ago beyond the capacity of many provincial hospitals. In a word, thanks to the extension of the emergency surgical operation network, especially in villages and districts, improvement of its working capacity, over the past three years of fighting against the U.S. war of destruction, the death-rate in urgency cases in the North was the lowest.

Village and district hospitals also have stepped up in a comprehensive manner prophylactic and curative hygiene as well as medicine and pharmacy, through the development of hygiene and epidemiology stations and organizations for mothers and children's welfare and for fighting trachoma, malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy at district level, and through hygiene preventive inoculation drives in villages. It thanks to the work of the basic health service for the welfare of mothers and children that the rate of childbirth and infant mortality in the North is very low.

According to the "lighten the task of provincial hospitals and increase the ability of village and district hospitals" principle, the former have contributed an important part to improving the quality of work of the latter by supplying them with qualified personnel and equipment in relief hospital-beds. Reversely, thanks to the development and strengthening of the capacity of village and district hospitals, the provincial hospitals have been in a better position to cope with cases hit by prophylactic and curative hygiene, production and supply of medicines, training of staff and scientific research. Most of provincial hospitals have their own specialties which are fairly modern and equipped and can do more and more complicated work.

In the conditions created by dispersion, the centrally and locally run hospitals have done their best to fulfil the basic tasks, the training of personnel and improvement of their professional standards and the conducting of scientific researches. The cadres at central level train district cadres and the latter in turn instruct village cadres. The College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy also form a higher contingent than in peace time (the percentage of students in 1967 nearly doubled that of 1964). By associating practical experiences with theoretical knowledge on modern medicine, over the past three years of anti-U.S. struggle the Health Service has turned out an adequate staff. Compared with the past three years of the North the number of doctors is 2.3 times higher, that

of pharmacists 2.2 times, that of assistant doctors 1.7 times and that of assistant pharmacists 1.5 times (not including medical workers instructed in villages).

Because of the war, the theories of scientific techniques have been closely connected with reality, especially with that of the countryside, with war urgencies and with prevention and treatment of the results obtained in attending to cases of trauma caused by wounds without relying mainly on blood transfusion, of burns, fractures, skull injuries as in the use of some medicines and in the treatment which combines Eastern medicine with Western medicine, have brought the Vietnamese medical circles a clearer realization of the line of their researches which favours a combined use of modern scientific knowledge and traditional experiences of the nation for a speedy and satisfactory solution of immediate problems and subsequent theoretical investigation.

THE above-mentioned achievements can be first ascribed to the Party's leadership, instructions and resolutions issued by the Party Central Committee on the new situation and tasks in general and medical work in particular have provided early guidance for the medical personnel to adjust themselves to the war conditions.

With the Party's leadership and the support and assistance of the people, our Health Service



In North Viet Nam countryside, many families have their sick and bed-ridden

policy and their growing political consciousness.

Another factor of our achievements in the medical field in the past three years has been the warm support of the peoples of the socialist countries and the world. The socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union and China, have supplied us with surgical instruments, equipment of hospitals and field hospitals, drug-producing apparatuses as well as medical literature. Progressive in the world especially in France, Japan, Italy, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, West Germany and also the U.S. have sent us medicines, hospital and other equipment and chemical products.

The direct and decisive cause of our health achievements is the fact that we possess a strong contingent of medical staff. Educated by the Party and trained in practical work, this army has been fired in its work by the spirit of self-sell and self-reliance; enthusiastic and persevering, it has been fearless of difficulties, and has been efficiently serving production and the fighting and at the same time has paved the way for the branch's eventual rapid development after the war.

With the Party's leadership and the support and assistance of the people, our Health Service

will surely fulfil the task entrusted to it by the Party and people. It will certainly make headway and satisfactorily fulfil the great revolutionary tasks set for our people if it always abides by the Party's three principles - all the Party members and people see to health protection; preventive hygiene comes first; Western medicine to be combined with Eastern medicine - and if it closely links medical work with labour and production, the fighting and the needs of the people's life, co-ordinates various branches, organizations, enterprises, co-operatives, pushes up propaganda and agitation work in the masses and encourages their work into a common concern of the people led by the Party.

WHILE "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION"?

PACIFICATION "MANU MILITARY"

ACCORDING to the American press, since late 1960, the Americans and the Saigon puppets have been trying a politico-military programme called "accelerated pacification". As revealed by Jacques Foisie in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted by *USIS* on Jan. 3 this year, the date chosen for its launching was Nov. 1, 1968.

The objectives contemplated by the enemy command as indicated by many statements from American and puppet responsible officials and some leak-outs in the Western press can be summarized in the following points:

Militarily, "accelerated pacification" is a big up for the so-called "clear-and-hold" strategy designed to check attacks and popular uprising in cities and key strategic areas. It has also a long-term objective: help the aggressors tap the man-power and material resources of these areas to pursue their aggression.

Politically, as Washington feels a political settlement of the war inevitable, "accelerated pacification" will have to clamp down the conflict, if only formal, of the puppet administration on many South Viet Nam population centres as possible in order to strengthen its political hand and to enable it to produce a favourable war map at the conference which was to open in Paris following the unconditional cessation of U.S. aid on the DRVN. The objective set for the first 3 months of the campaign would be, according to *Newswatch* (Jan-6 1969), to "partly", at least symbolically, 1,200 hamlets. This is what the Western press terms as "flag-planting operation".

The means resorted to have nothing in common with a "pacifist" measure as those who have set on foot this programme try to make it sound like by naming it "pacification". It is really military "mopping-up" and occupation operations, or operations of regroupment of civilians in areas supposedly susceptible of being controlled, militarily, by US-puppet forces. To make people "see reason", the latter use terror, mass murder arrests and torture in interrogation of "suspects". After having "rooted out" the VC political structure" in this way, the forces involved will proceed to the establishment of the puppet administration apparatus and, if required by circumstances, put on it an attractive face with measures called economic aid.

To prepare the ground for "accelerated pacification" campaigns, operations *Phenix* have been mounted. These consist in dispatching into areas out of US-puppet control commandos, American and hired killers whose job it is to identify local militants and patriotic organizations, assassinate cadres and draw up "black lists" in order to facilitate the ultimate destruction of the NLF infrastructure.

The theatre chosen for these "accelerated pacification" operations is the areas surrounding main cities and bases or adjoining key communication lines vital for the US-puppets.

A FUTILE "SHOW-OFF" MOVE

So, "accelerated pacification" appeared as a "show-off" move decided on in hot haste while the US-puppets were driven onto the defensive militarily while the puppet regime was giving way everywhere (1) and while it was increasingly evident that sooner or later the US would have to go to the conference table. It turned out to be part of the US effort to revamp the tottering puppet regime and "Vietnamization" the war so as to maintain Washington's neo-colonialist hegemony in the Southern part of our country.

However, after more than 4 months since it was launched, "accelerated pacification" has brought but bitter disappointment to the US-puppets.

One of the first large-scale operations of the kind was started in mid-November 1968 about 30 km from the centre of Da Nang, the biggest U.S. base in Southern Asia. On this occasion, the regional forces and garrisons of Dien Ban district, after 4 days of fighting, killed 7,000 troops comprising 618 South Korean mercenaries and soldiers of the puppet regime and captured 1,200 weapons. On their front, 2,000 casualties, some 20 aircraft brought down and several dozen military vehicles destroyed.

Since then, other actions against areas outlying Saigon, especially in the provinces of Long An and Huu Nghia, and against villages of fishermen and peasants in the Ba Lang An peninsula southeast of the US Chu Lai base, etc., have proved as disastrous as the previous one.

Meanwhile, more than any figure of the enemy losses, however high, the simultaneous attacks launched by the PLAF on the night of Feb. 23 last, and occupation operations, or operations of regroupment of civilians in areas supposedly susceptible of being controlled, militarily, by US-puppet forces. To make people "see reason", the latter use terror, mass murder arrests and torture in interrogation of "suspects". After having "rooted out" the VC political structure" in this way, the forces involved will proceed to the establishment of the puppet administration apparatus and, if required by circumstances, put on it an attractive face with measures called economic aid.

INURABLE ORIGINAL DEFECT

THE obvious bankruptcy of the American strategists in South Viet Nam came as no surprise to us. It was only a matter of time before developments in Viet Nam.

Following the famous Tet offensives and the continual and powerful onslaught of the South Viet

Nam armed forces and people, following the disastrous defeat of the war of destruction against the DRVN with the unconditional cessation of U.S. aid on the South Viet Nam, the aggressive will of the Yankee imperialists was seriously shaken, while the puppets were in complete disarray for fear that their bases would let them down or again "change horses in mid-stream". Defeatism spread among the U.S. satellite and puppet troops and was evidenced by the growing rate of desertions, mutinies and rebellions. The "pacification" teams had not been spared by this general crisis. Their strength was drained dry during the popular attacks, especially in 1968. To fill the gap in their ranks, the enemy has no other resources than a recourse either to the service of adventurers of all stripes or to the forced enrolment of public servants and students, which course of action deprives the teams of the last shreds of their credit. Furthermore, local tyrants with whom rests most of the effectiveness of the "accelerated pacification" operations have been mostly made away with, neutralized or forced into exile to escape the punishment of the people. This shows a sharp contradiction between the political aims, very perfidious, and the capacities, rather limited, of the enemy. In such conditions it is futile to try to "hold out" the NLF, whose influence of the latter keeps growing rapidly with the people of South Viet Nam and the world at large.

What is more, the brutal means used under the "accelerated pacification" programme contribute to the highest degree the conflict between our people and the U.S. aggressors and rouse the entire people to stand up against the enemy. This explains the heavy adverse losses in areas where no main force of the PLAF is committed. Popular opposition has touched off uprisings which have completely destroyed vast areas in which the people have been concentrated to be kept under closer watch, as in Buon Ho on the Western Highlands on Dec. 20 last. In this way, the US-puppets have, so to say, made for themselves real setbacks by which they are sure to be lost.

It is thus clear that, beaten on the political plane, and resorting to violence of unparalleled savagery, the U.S. tactics, As a matter of fact, it would have been simply impossible for the NLF to mount such a well-coordinated series of offensives against 400 different targets in almost all provinces of South Viet Nam if the "accelerated pacification" campaign had yielded some kind of result.

SIMPLE "PACIFICATION" AND "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION"

As everybody knows, since the 1955-1960 dry season counter-offensive, Westerners had found a tactic that without "pacification", it would be absolutely impossible for him to regain the initiative which had slipped from his hands. This gave birth to the so-called "two-prong" strategy carried out after 1960 with fresh

and key-up troops brought in en masse from the U.S. As also known to everybody, this strategy, however, came also to a full stop.

What chance of success can "accelerated pacification" expect in the present US-puppet more critical defensive posture and at a time when the morale of their troops is at its lowest ebb and their strength has been severely depleted by the 1968 actions?

To ensure the defence of cities and bases, the present forces are already far from being adequate. How then can they scrape up enough manpower to effectively occupy the pacification areas, although these are confined to some peripheral sectors? (2) The "troop concentration and dispersal" dilemma, already very puzzling in the "clear-and-hold" strategy, becomes aggravated with "accelerated pacification".

The previous collapse of simple "pacification" was imputed to the impossibility of ensuring the safety for the "pacifiers". If this conclusion of the U.S. Command contains some bits of truth, one strongly doubts whether its new scheme will fare better now that it is at a greater disadvantage than before. Everything shows that it is caught in a vicious circle: for lack of a military shield, "pacification", it is now going to make of "accelerated pacification" a shield for its military set-up.

Washington has acknowledged that "pacification" must be conducted by the puppet troops only and that the participation of GIs in this undertaking will harm the efforts. Yet, considering its sad plight, the puppet army is absolutely incapable of fulfilling any task not even that of "house mother" assigned it by the Americans. That is why the burden again falls on US troops. *US Time* magazine disclosed on Dec. 20, 1968 that nearly a half of the operations conducted by the GIs at that time was meant to support the "accelerated pacification" programme. In fact, all the U.S. divisions have been thrown into the undertaking and even the First Air Cavalry which forms the mobile reserve has been spread thin to this effect on a 100 km front Northeast of Saigon.

FROM POLITE SMILE TO SNIGG

ANOTHER factor of prime importance on which depends the success or success of "accelerated pacification" is the PLAF reaction. In its Jan. 6, 1969 *Newswatch* made no bones about it. It quoted a U.S. district adviser in South Viet Nam as revealing that "2 of his newly secured hamlets have already been de-secured" by the PLAF and concluded, "All it takes is a couple of VC and ten minutes, and you've lost what may represent weeks of work."

Already before the post-Tet attacks, the enemy command had to extend 100% the time allotted for

the pacification of the first 1,200 hamlets fired at the beginning. One can easily imagine what has come of this objective now, after Feb. 23.

The propaganda services of Saigon and Washington however have not ceased bragging about the "successes" obtained in this field. Nevertheless, in a most recent article (Mar. 3, 1969) *Newswatch* commented that to many old Viet Nam hands, this all seems just a little too good to be true. The same magazine added that no sign of military weakness had been seen on the part of the NLF and that in these conditions the "accelerated pacification" programme always remained illusory.

And here is a recent AFP dispatch: "When told of (puppet) Premier Tran Van Huong's recent announcement that the (puppet) administration's intention was to pacify the country 100 per cent in 1969, some officers smiled politely, but others sniggered."

Whether this new "accelerated pacification" programme? A U.S. officer was reported by *Newswatch* to have foreseen for the US puppet scheme the following alternative (Mar. 3, 1969): this program is a bombshell. It is either going to be an amazing success or a dismal failure. Everything induces us to predict, unfailingly, that it is the second eventuality that is coming to pass.

(1) The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported on Nov. 4, 1968 that it was felt in Saigon that the collapse of the Thien region was a matter of time.

(2) To give an idea of the size of the force needed to conduct an "accelerated pacification" operation, we again quote the following figures from the Western press: 9,000 men, in a 3-week operation in the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southwestern sector of the country, 8,000 in the operation against 3 villages of La Lang An, etc.



HERE I am back again at SV (Rach Gia) after a long absence. The region has been repeatedly bombed by U.S. aircraft and artillery. The aggressors are bent on suppressing the green of life and the ring of laughter. They want to cover the whole area with a pall of mourning. But life has got the better of them: it is surging forward...

Lost in thought, I didn't notice that the boat had entered the canal. A familiar voice coming from the bank woke me up: it was old Mrs Muoi's. Holding a lamp with one hand, she pulled me ashore with the other. A crowd was walking along the embankment, talking and laughing. Most of the people were

me at the gate to go to evening class.

Old Muoi is turned 60. Yet he is an activist in the educational drive in the region.

I talked to him about the recent victories won by our armed forces and people in their winter-spring campaign. After taking a sip of tea, he gave a joyous laugh. "Well," he said "as for me I'll look after education in this hamlet. You remember, don't you, how things were? The children did nothing but romp and quarrel. So, together with a few friends, I set about building a school. Oh, just a bamboo hut, but quite roomy. Then we managed to find a teacher. At first only a few kids came; now there are 36 of them. The hamlet people

Ninh: the husband looks after the children when his wife goes to class, and vice versa. And the Hais, who live across the channel: she is with child, but never misses a class; she gets encouragement from her husband, too. Muoi's wife helps the women with their study: yet she has a numerous family and is now pregnant..."

His eyes became misty as he evoked the past, but his voice was firm: "Don't you remember, Sam? When the hamlet was occupied by the enemy, people were threatened with arrest and massacre at every turn. How could they think about getting an education. Besides, there was no school."

Life in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam

ALL THE HAMLET GO TO SCHOOL

women. "Say, Mum, where are they going?" I asked, "They are in very high spirits, aren't they?" Mrs Muoi smiled and removed a lock of white hair which had fallen on her eye. "They are going to school," she said. "They all live in this hamlet: Mrs Tu, Mrs Sau, Hai's wife, Ut Dai's wife... There won't soon be any illiterate people left. I too am going to class..."

The light flickered with each of her steps. Her shadow spread on the path. Leaves rustled in the breeze. When we came to her house, she left

have built enough air raid shelters for all."

Puffing away at his cigarette, he added: "They are wonderful kids. In the recent drive, together with their teacher, they sharpened over 1,000 spikes for the body-traps and planted more than 4,000 saplings in the woods. They were quite active in the recent drive to encourage the youth to enlist in the liberation forces: among the seven young people joining the armed forces several were from the school itself. The teacher has been elected an outstanding activist in the district educational movement."

"Is that the only school in the hamlet?" I asked.

"There is another one, Uncle Hai teaches there, both day-school and evening classes. So, we have two schools for a total of thirty households! Almost all the kids go to class. So do most of the grown-ups."

"I think your evening classes are thriving! I just saw many women going to class in high spirits."

"Yes, we have seven classes grouping 47 people. Many have learnt to read and write. They are quite eager to learn. Take for instance the

Songs came from a neighbour's radio set. I left Old Muoi to pay a visit to the evening class.

Standing before the blackboard and holding her lamp in one hand, Mrs Muoi was pointing a stick at the letters written on it. The lamp flickered with every gust of breeze. Mrs. Tu was reading aloud. After finishing a sentence, she drew a long breath, smiled and resumed her reading. The entire class were following her attentively. Whenever she made a mistake, the "teacher" corrected it.

A feeling of pride filled my heart as I looked at their white hair. I was proud of our people's fighting spirit and love of study. In this hamlet, the women as well as their menfolk work and fight in the daytime and study at night, amidst reports of American artillery.

Soon, the entire hamlet will be freed from illiteracy. As runs a saying, "the clearer grow their eyes, the clearer their minds."

In every corner of the land, a spring breeze is blowing...

F. N.
South Viet Nam

Books on South Viet Nam

THE IVORY COMB

(Collection of short stories by several South Vietnamese writers)

Second edition

Graphic illustration of an evident truth: the South Vietnamese people have managed to fight back the American aggressors and the National Front for Liberation will surely win.

Giai Phong Editions, South Viet Nam 1969

General distributor: 32, Ba Ha Trang, Hanoi Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

"100 Million Francs for Viet Nam" - A Loyal Manifestation of International Proletarianism



Street demonstration by Tokyoans on March 16, 1969 for an end to the Viet Nam war, Okinawa's return to Japan and cancellation of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

Japanese People Support Viet Nam

WORK support for the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and for the liberation of the Japanese people, was voiced at meetings and demonstrations held by about 500,000 Japanese workers, students, and members of other segments of the Japanese people on March 16 (National Day of United Action) in 23 places in 47 provinces to promote the setting up of the united front against the U.S. and the Sato reactionary authorities.

At a reconstruction meeting called by the Japanese Communist Party in Tokyo, Sanzo Natsuka, Chairman of the Central Committee, warmly hailed the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. for national salvation and denounced the Sato reactionary authorities' collusion with the US imperialists in the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The Japanese CP leader said:

"The heroic Vietnamese people have dealt death blows at the U.S. imperialism. At the same time their resistance is vigorously encouraging the national liberation struggle of the world's peoples."

The participants approved a statement calling on the Japanese people to further step up their action against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, demand that the U.S. dismantle all its military bases in Japan, and oppose the production and shipment of U.S. military goods.

Such an action, the speaker continued, is one of international solidarity taken in coordination with the anti-imperialist struggle of the world, and the Japanese people's struggle against the U.S. for national salvation and the liberation of the Japanese people.

Meetings and demonstrations for the same purpose were staged in Osaka, Yokohama, Kujukawa and other cities etc.,

1,000 American Women Demonstrate in Front of the White House

ABOUT 1,000 American women staged on March 20 a demonstration in front of the White House and marched to the Capitol with slogans urging immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and cessation of the war in Viet Nam, reports from the United States said.

The demonstration was held by the "Women's Strike for Peace." Many of them dressed in mourning carried black balloons and placards

with slogans reading "Get out of Viet Nam!"

Many other groups of women coming from various states joined in the demonstration.

A car drove from Washington to New York with this bold-type inscription on display: "My son was killed in Viet Nam. Whose fault?"

The demonstrators handed in at the White House a letter to Nixon pressing for

French workers and toiling people, holding aloft the banner of international proletarianism have been supporting with might and main our people anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation. Tens of thousands of demonstration meetings and other actions have taken place throughout France, involving a great number of workers, youths, intellectuals and democratic and progressive people to support and help our people materially and spiritually in the fight against the aggressors.

With the backing of the world's peoples, and of the French people, our people have won tremendous victories. But as a result of the American aggressors' stubbornness the nearer our struggle to its end, the greater are our difficulties and hardships. Faithfully interpreting the thought and sentiment of the French people in this new stage of the Vietnamese people's resistance war against U.S. aggression, comrade Waldeck Rochet said that "the task for all peoples, including the French people, is to bring the greatest pressure to bear on the U.S. authorities to end their aggression in Viet Nam, to withdraw their troops from

South Viet Nam, dismantle their military bases in the South and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves." It is at this juncture that meetings and rallies in support of Viet Nam have taken place throughout France. The last position of the DRVN delegation and NFL delegation at the Paris conference has received the staunch support and wholehearted sympathy of the French people. On the other hand, President Nixon's arrival in Paris was protested by tens of thousands of French men who, at the call of the French Communist Party, poured out into the street and staged a strong demonstration. The successful "100 million francs in support of Viet Nam" drive is a proof of the French people's eagerness to strengthen their militant solidarity with the Vietnamese people at the present stage of the latter's struggle.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese people express their sincere gratitude to the "National Committee to Support the Vietnamese People" and the "National Committee to Support the Vietnamese People" for their support and solidarity with the Vietnamese people at the present stage of the latter's struggle.

Thanks To Our European Friends

OUR people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for independence and peace in the world is being supported by a stronger and stronger support from progressives all over the world. European intellectuals, in particular, have taken a stand against the American imperialists whose crimes on our soil have shocked their conscience. While such personalities as the members of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal for international solidarity taken in coordination with the anti-imperialist struggle of the world, and the Japanese people's struggle against the U.S. for national salvation and the liberation of the Japanese people.

UP to now the Central Scientific Library has received from the "Collectif Interdisciplinaire Universitaire" a great number of scientific publications. In addition to big encyclopaedias and reference books from the best known publishing houses there have been books on basic knowledge, treatises, monographs as well as off-prints, collections of periodicals and seminar reports. These priceless assistance of our European friends which continue flowing in every day, embodies their fraternity and militant solidarity which give our people a strong filip. Their memory will last long in the pages of all these books as well as in the minds of those who receive books from the "Collectif Interdisciplinaire Universitaire d'Action pour la Paix au Viet Nam" (Joint University Union Community for Action for Viet Nam Peace) has sent us thousands of valuable scientific and technical books.

Part of this gift was exhibited in the Central Scientific Library in September last. Professors, engineers, researchers and students came in great numbers to take a look at the displayed works, some of which bear inscriptions, or letters, authors' photographs which were moving testimonies of fraternity and solidarity. "Tribute of the authors of the scientific and technical revolution in our country."

For instance, two bomb explosions had taken place in Detroit within the first 12 days of September 1968 near U.S. military bases.

Editor's Note - Nguyen Van Hoa (alias Theo), 15, has twice been honored "Valiant anti-U.S. Fighter." He and his fellow fighters have been responsible for 31 enemy casualties. Hoa alone has killed 10 enemy troops, destroyed one jeep and captured two sub-machine-guns.

The following story tells of one of the first battles of this boy in Thua Thien province.

FROM a bush Theo emerged and waved a signal. Two cadres hiding on the other side of the road sprang out and dashed forward.

When the two had caught up with him, Theo cast a knowing look at them and, pointing his finger to the post, said volubly: "That's our last post on this road. Over there is hamlet X." With a sign of his head he showed a fur-off bamboo grove.

Wagging a bamboo twig, he continued, smiling, "You're safe now, Good bye!"

Thereupon Theo hurried home by the same road, whistling all the way, a favourite song. But at the gate, he sensed something had happened during his absence. He stopped in the yard and looked round, calling for "Vang," his pet dog. Silence. Normally the dog would run out to greet him with its bow-wow, wagging its short tail. Theo stood in anxious anticipation, then called out: "Vang... Vang..." And he called over his shoulder. "Vang... Vang..."

When he returned, his mother ran out from behind the house. She looked at the boy in silent sympathy then said, "This morning, when after you went, some Yanks showed up again. After a vain search, they took Vang away. I tried to wrest it back. They hit me in the face."

Looking up at his mother, Theo thought he could still

Little Theo and the Yellow Dog

see the mark of the enemy's fire on his mother's face. He frowned deeply and said angrily, "They'll have to pay dearly for this. Nam." Then he walked into the house, took a seat on top of the anti-aircraft shelter and thought long and hard.

He missed it awfully, the little dog which had always been his companion and played with him during his leisure. No more of those noon baths and the accompanying patient heat-hunt in its woolly hair. How amusing it looked when it put its elongated muzzle into some bush and bored its small canines as if to threaten some invisible mouse then turned its naughty eyes to Theo as if to boast of its alertness. He most vividly remembered the quiet afternoons when, as no artillery fire came from enemy ships, he would call the dog out into the yard and taught it tricks. He showed it how to shake hands and to beg. The dog proved a very intelligent one, and learned very quickly. Each time it did well, Theo would give him a small lump of sugar.

When shells of the enemy naval artillery tore through the air and exploded near the village, the puppy would run to Theo's mother and, pulling at the hem of her trousers, would lead him into safety. Then, when a puppet and American raider came to the hamlet, "Vang" would rush out from under a tree, bark and snap at the leg of some unfortunate soldier then vanished in a twinkling with angry grunts.

The more he thought of it the more Theo missed the dog. It was the Yanks in the village, Theo stole out to where the shells fell most thickly in search for ducks. He found three of them, carried them home and hid them in a bamboo grove. At noon-time on the following day he secretly went to the cache and set to defuse the shells. And he succeeded after painstaking efforts.

Knowing his intention, Sao, a guerrilla in the village, asked Theo to show him the shells and the fuses so he might give some suggestions. But the boy obstinately refused. "Never, never shall I let them fall on my project. They will make me a laughing-stock if the mine fuses go off," Theo told himself.

Seizing the first opportunity which offered when he was assigned to escort some militants to the liberated area, Theo dropped in at an ammunition workshop where he coaxed out of Uncle Nam

dog. It was the Yanks in the village, Theo stole out to where the shells fell most thickly in search for ducks. He found three of them, carried them home and hid them in a bamboo grove. At noon-time on the following day he secretly went to the cache and set to defuse the shells. And he succeeded after painstaking efforts.

Knowing his intention, Sao, a guerrilla in the village, asked Theo to show him the shells and the fuses so he might give some suggestions. But the boy obstinately refused. "Never, never shall I let them fall on my project. They will make me a laughing-stock if the mine fuses go off," Theo told himself.

Seizing the first opportunity which offered when he was assigned to escort some militants to the liberated area, Theo dropped in at an ammunition workshop where he coaxed out of Uncle Nam

three brand new fuses which would fit into his shells. Still, there were many more things which Theo could not get such as a piece of electric wire and a pair of flash-light batteries. He needed no trouble about the wire since he could get it from a bed, a half-fallen bed of the same guerrilla group as he. He had once seen life with a lot of it. The hardest thing was still the cells. Batteries must be bought. Theo had not a penny for himself. What to do now? "Ah," he almost cried with a start, striking his forehead, his eyes almost sparkling, "I'll sell the hen and the brood." This proved the end of the anticipated joy of possessing the much-coveted batteries.

Having made necessary preparations for the mine attack, Theo had brief consultations with Sao and two members of his guerrilla team about his plan, and asked them to provide him with a small amount of money.

At dawn the next day after putting the shell in a hole dug on the previous night at a point in the road leading to Hamlet X, Theo concealed under the grass its two pieces of wire whose ends branched forth into a fox-hole on a nearby hill. Leaving himself against the hole wall, Theo kept a keen eye on the enemy positions. The sun rose high, lifting the morning mist and revealing the dirt road winding past like a snake. Looking to the hill on his side, Theo could see the barrels of Sao and He's carbines at the ready. He felt the square battery box and rolled in his finger the ends of the wire with the same delight as when he played with his puppy. He wondered whether the dog was still alive and wished the same Frank that he would ride straight into his ambush.

Theo flashed a quick smile, thinking of the bulky American soldiers whom he had met in Hue city, as gawky as a group of dinosaurs.

The rumble of engines was heard in the distance. Looking in the direction of X, Theo saw two black spots that grew bigger and bigger. Two jeeps were coming at full speed. "They are the C.O. taking a ride to Hue," Theo thought to himself.

The lead car was only about 500 metres from the village. Theo suddenly held the two ends of the pieces of wire in both hands. The car rolled and rolled slowly. "What?" Theo thought. Only two of them, the driver, that's not worth while. Theo said to himself. The jeep rolled past without its occupants knowing that they had just had a

three brand new fuses which would fit into his shells. Still, there were many more things which Theo could not get such as a piece of electric wire and a pair of flash-light batteries. He needed no trouble about the wire since he could get it from a bed, a half-fallen bed of the same guerrilla group as he. He had once seen life with a lot of it. The hardest thing was still the cells. Batteries must be bought. Theo had not a penny for himself. What to do now? "Ah," he almost cried with a start, striking his forehead, his eyes almost sparkling, "I'll sell the hen and the brood." This proved the end of the anticipated joy of possessing the much-coveted batteries.

Having made necessary preparations for the mine attack, Theo had brief consultations with Sao and two members of his guerrilla team about his plan, and asked them to provide him with a small amount of money.

At dawn the next day after putting the shell in a hole dug on the previous night at a point in the road leading to Hamlet X, Theo concealed under the grass its two pieces of wire whose ends branched forth into a fox-hole on a nearby hill. Leaving himself against the hole wall, Theo kept a keen eye on the enemy positions. The sun rose high, lifting the morning mist and revealing the dirt road winding past like a snake. Looking to the hill on his side, Theo could see the barrels of Sao and He's carbines at the ready. He felt the square battery box and rolled in his finger the ends of the wire with the same delight as when he played with his puppy. He wondered whether the dog was still alive and wished the same Frank that he would ride straight into his ambush.

The rumble of engines was heard in the distance. Looking in the direction of X, Theo saw two black spots that grew bigger and bigger. Two jeeps were coming at full speed. "They are the C.O. taking a ride to Hue," Theo thought to himself.

The lead car was only about 500 metres from the village. Theo suddenly held the two ends of the pieces of wire in both hands. The car rolled and rolled slowly. "What?" Theo thought. Only two of them, the driver, that's not worth while. Theo said to himself. The jeep rolled past without its occupants knowing that they had just had a

narrow escape. The second jeep came up speeding. One, two, three, four Yanks. A puppet driver. Two of the Americans wore large-framed spectacles, sprawling on the seats, with cigarettes between their fingers. Maybe they were the very officers who had ordered the burning of Aunt Ba's home, who had broken into their home, slapped his mother on her face and robbed him of his dear puppy. All these thoughts were tumbling through Theo's mind as the jeep drew up. It was barely a few yards from the headlight. Theo saw the two big front wheels, two bits of wire, a flash-light and a strong shock wave flattened him against the wall of the pillbox. He felt his hair was raised and his ears were buzzing as if many mosquitoes were humming there. Then suddenly he heard carbines crackle. The noise brought him back to reality. He opened his eyes. The first jeep had turned back and was spitting bullets all around. He also saw the second jeep burst into flames. The sound of submachine-guns from Sao and He's return fire. He sprang to his feet. From the car, trailing his gun on the door, a coaching Yank was firing long volleys at Sao. This was not very clever. He raised the M-16 on his shoulder, he took aim and pressed the trigger. Saw he felt the same prod as the other day. Theo took command of a group of children in a shanty bathhouse. He ordered them to get from his small chest came a "forward" that drowned even the gunfire. The gruff voice of Sao came to him, giving the impression of a large unit of the Liberation Army charging. The enemy car sped off. He jumped on top of the fort and fired after the car.

Slinging his carbine onto his shoulder, Theo went to the wreckage of the car in the hope of finding some carbines as gifts for the girl guerrillas at Hamlet X.

Silence fell on the whole battlefield. Lying scattered around the smouldering wreckage were bandoliers and helmets. Theo among his carbines, cocked it up and put his finger arm on the trigger, ready to let off a salvo at the imaginary adversary. "Eh, Eh!" A bizarre howling startled him. About five yards before him stood a bulky American officer with ruffled hair and a bushy beard showing two rows of white teeth. "What are you doing? Stop! Stop!" Theo stopped short and the surprise encounter frightened him. "A ghost? No, no, a man. The gesture called Theo back to reality. He said aloud, "What? You try to scare me, huh? Training huh? This is the Yank at the huge chest of the bank, he fired point blank. The man uttered a horrible shriek, his body reeling back in air and collapsed like a rotten tree.

H.T.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

(Continued from page 2)

will make up its mind to withdraw totally and unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

There is for the U.S. government only one honourable way out of its present Viet Nam predicament. Mr. Nuan Tuy and Mr. Tran Huu Kiem declared, that is to give up its neo-colonialist policy of aggression. A sound solution to the Viet Nam problem is to be found in the DRVN four points and NFL five points. As the US government has committed its troops to an act of aggression against Viet Nam, such a step is a legitimate demand not only of the Vietnamese people, but also

of the world peoples, especially of American men and women who do not like to see their husbands and sons die a useless death in this unjust war.

The US and puppet delegates reiterated their old slanders against the DRVN, charging it with "aggression" against South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and of "violation of the DMZ." They also repeated their proposals which had been turned down many times by the DRVN and NFL delegations.

All these malicious accusations and signs of bad faith were denounced and there by the representation of the DRVN and NFL.

U.S.-Puppet Crimes in South Viet Nam

(Continued from page 1)

Road No. 14. The 10,000 inhabitants of 47 neighbouring villages brought there against their will, mostly catholic, were of So Dang nationality. They protested against such a preposterous measure and demanded to be sent back to their native village. In the representative bombardment, the enemy killed 350 people including Father Leonid, one of the two French parish priests.

After the massacre, American and puppet soldiers broke into Cong Ho Rin to loot the people's property.

NGUYEN XHU KONTUM

Rector of Hanoi University

VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Saigon area, chiefly Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh sectors, Da Nang area, the Western High Plateaux, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, the two northwestern provinces of South Viet Nam, last week were given prominence in Gial Phong Press agency.

SAIGON REGION

Operation Atlas Wedge at Dau Tieng: 2,000 GIs put out of action, 210 vehicles, 30 heavy guns and mortars destroyed and 12 aircraft burnt.

Tay Ninh province: 700 adverse casualties recorded, 16 choppers downed, 50 vehicles and 10 ordnance pieces destroyed in 11 days.

Xuan Loc sector, northeast of Saigon: 8 enemy companies wiped out.

In Dau Tieng sector, "Atchelin" rubber plantation, 6 km northwest of Saigon, an operation code-named *Atlas Wedge* was launched in the middle of March by 10 battalions of U.S. Infantry Division 1 and 25, First Air Mobile Division, and Armoured Regiment 11. The PLAF struck first and on March 17 and 18 besieged the enemy in Villages No 10 and 11. 200 GIs put out of action, 15 vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, destroyed and 1 helicopter downed.

The attacks went on on March 19 and 20, inflicting on the enemy hundreds of casualties and the loss of many armoured cars. A small group of PLAF men, in an ambush on March 20, wiped out a U.S. motorized column by destroying its vehicles.

On March 22, the GIs retreated, hotly pursued by the patriotic forces who put out of action a company and destroyed 7 tanks in the plantation, operation *Atlas Wedge* ended in a fiasco.

Keeping up their actions the PLAF on March 26 overran a camp of Brigade 2, First Air Mobile Division, about twenty kilometers north of Dau Tieng, killing or wounding 210 GIs and destroying 9 heavy mortars. On March 27 an armoured car park some 15 km southwest of Dau Tieng was stormed: 50 vehicles were destroyed, 2 big engines burnt.

This in 11 days (March 17-27) of Operation *Atlas Wedge*, the Yankees lost over 2,000 men, 210 vehicles (mostly armoured vehicles) and 30 artillery pieces, 12 choppers and planes.

Northwest of Dau Tieng, in Tay Ninh province, many successes were recorded by the PLAF between March 20 and 30. On March 22, southwest of the provincial capital, about one hundred puppet paratroopers were killed or wounded and 4 choppers knocked down. On March 23, an attack by regional PLAF, the puppet paratroopers lost 250 men.

At Tre Co (55 km northwest of Saigon) where a month ago 850 GIs had been put out of action in two attacks by the PLAF within 4 hours, a puppet company was wiped out on March 26 and a CAV company badly mauled.

Two days later, on March 28 on the Tay Ninh - Dan Tieng road, the Yankees lost in two ambushes 50 vehicles (most of them armoured cars and tanks) and took many casualties.

On March 29, 20 km north of Tay Ninh town, a company of Regiment 5, First Air Mobile Division, was wiped out and on March 30, two puppet para battalions came under fire south of the town: 300 adverse casualties (2 companies wiped out) and 12 cannons destroyed.

PLAF A.A. batteries proved most effective in that province by tumbling 15 aircraft on March 30 and 31.

Northeast of Saigon, in a sector north of Xuan Loc not far from Dong Nai river, the puppet troops suffered heavy setbacks between March 15 and 20: 8 companies wiped out, 31 vehicles destroyed and 12 choppers downed.

Northwest of Saigon, in Cu Chi district, between March 14 and 22, the PLAF put out of action 820 GIs, wiped out 5 American companies, destroyed 94 tanks and armoured cars and shot down 4 choppers.

Further south, on March 21, the Yankees had about one hundred men killed or wounded in a battle near Duc Hoa.

Southwest, Binh Duc base of U.S. Infantry Division 9 was pounded by PLAF artillery on March 20: 160 GIs put out of action, 5 million litres of fuel burned, a shell dump destroyed.

In Saigon, in the 5th district, on March 30 a police station was blown up, 4 military vehicles destroyed, many policemen killed or wounded. Three days earlier, the HQ of a puppet para-military organization in the 3rd district was dynamited.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO
2,400 enemy casualties south of Da Nang, and in Quang Nam province and 2,000 others (1,100 GIs) in 3 provinces in the Western High Plateaux.

Twenty kilometres south of Da Nang, the PLAF occupied Vinh Dien town on March 19-20 after taking a heavy toll from

the garrison and repelling repeated enemy counterattacks. In that sector from March 19 to 21, 900 GIs, 200 Koreans and Saigon puppet troops were knocked out.

Further South, 60 km from Da Nang, around Tien Phung sub-sector CP invested by the PLAF, from March 19 to 21, the enemy had 260 men (200, 600) killed, or wounded, 7 choppers downed and 2 armoured carriers destroyed.

In Quang Nam province, from March 23 to 25, the PLAF assaulted a locality near the provincial capital, 122 km southwest of Da Nang. The 11 targets hit

included the airfields and a base of Brigade 1, Americal Division: 350 GIs put out of action and a fuel depot burnt. In other onsets around Quang Nam and 4 districts of the province, from March 16 to 21, the enemy suffered 600 casualties and 4 choppers downed.

In the Western High Plateaux, in Kontum, Pleiku and Darlac provinces, between March 21 and 31, the PLAF mounted 172 attacks in which they put out of action 2,082 enemy soldiers (1,411 GIs), destroyed 206 military vehicles (63 tanks and armoured cars) and 11 ordnance pieces; 6 American companies and 2 puppet companies were wiped out, 2 U.S. motorized infantry companies decimated.

QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN
800 enemy troops (650 GIs) put out of action in

a week.

SOUTH of the DMZ at the 17th parallel, between March 26 and 30 the PLAF wiped out 300 enemy troops, downed 6 choppers and destroyed 23 tanks and armoured cars at Con Thien and Tan Lam. In three engagements on March 31 on Hill 333.6 km north of Tan Lam, 300 GIs casualties were listed and 4 choppers lost.

Southeast of Hue, Phu Hai airfield was heavily bombed on March 23: 30 choppers and 50 military vehicles destroyed and 100 GIs put out of action.

The enemy forces operating in the mountain regions of Quang Tri and Thua Thien continued to be harassed and had 800 men (654 GIs) killed, wounded or captured, 63 vehicles and 10 cannons destroyed, 22 choppers downed or destroyed between March 23 and 29.



Quang Tri province liberation fighters attacking the enemy

SAIGON: WORKERS PERSECUTED

THE Thien-Ky-Huong puppet press has illegally brought to trial on March 23 17 workers of the DACOTEX textile factory in Saigon, before the 3rd Corps Area "Field/Military Court", GPA reported.

The source said that 14 of the accused received from 18 month prison terms to 7 years hard labour each, under false charges of "communist activities".

Of those sentenced to Dang Sin got 7 years and Luong De, Thiet Thuy Hao and Vo Van Tat, 5 years each. Like arbitrary sentences passed recently on Buddhist Superior Thich Thien

Minh and eight Buddhist students, the unjustifiable condemnation of those 17 workers has stirred up a wave of

anger among the South Vietnamese people, especially those in the towns, GPA noted.

Dockers Win Claims

DOCKERS striking against sackings at the U.S. military pier No.125 in Saigon have won initial success, GPA said.

The strike began early last March when the U.S. refused in charge sought to reduce working-time of hour-wage

workers and lay off redundant workers.

As a result of the dockers' energetic action, the port authorities had to agree to a maximum 10-hour workday including time for lunch and washing, the source added.